

Application No. 09/539,096
Amendment Dated April 5, 2006
Reply to Office Action of October 5, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the last (third) paragraph of Page 1, beginning at line 29, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Many loose probe indicators have been suggested or put into actual use. Some are based on using the signals representative of the body function being measured to detect a loose probe condition. Others are based on directly measuring some characteristic of the contact, such as impedance, which changes as the contact changes. Yet others incorporate in the probe special sensors, for example optical sensors, which detect changes in the position of the probe relative to the [skim] skin. Generally, the operation and reliability of the prior art loose probe indicators have not been sufficiently satisfactory.--

Please replace the first paragraph of Page 5, beginning at line 1 of Page 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--It should be noted that, although a loose probe condition produces a difference between in the first temperature signal T_1 and the second temperature signal T_2 , determining the difference between the rate of change of the first temperature signal T_1 and the rate of change of the second temperature signal T_2 provides a more reliable indication of a loose probe condition. Certain effects, such as thermistors and other sensors wearing over time, produce a difference between the first temperature signal T_1 and the second temperature signal T_2 , so that a difference between the first temperature signal T_1 , and the second temperature signal T_2 is not necessarily due to partial or complete probe dislodgement. Such effects, however, would not produce an appreciable, if any, difference between the rate of change of the first temperature signal T_1 and the rate of change of the second temperature signal T_2 . In contrast, the difference between the

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first temperature signal T_1 and the second temperature signal T_2 , with a threshold for this difference set sufficiently high, is useful for identifying a failure of [of] the thermistors which would cause a significant difference between the first temperature signal T_1 , and the second temperature signal T_2 .--